

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph found on page 1, lines 4-9 with the following:

a<sup>1</sup>

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/404,146, filed September 27, 1999, now pending U.S. Patent No. 6,355,715, issued March 12, 2002, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/996,718, filed on December 23, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,124,389, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/603,057, filed on February 16, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,759,676, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/482,522, filed June 7, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,688,191, U.S. Patent Application No. 08/603,057, filed February 16, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,759,676, and U.S. Patent Application No. 08/996,718, filed December 23, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,124,389. The entire disclosures of these applications are incorporated by reference herein.

Please replace the paragraph found on page 19, lines 16-18 with the following:

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While it is ~~apparent~~ apparent that the illustrative embodiments of the invention herein disclosed ~~fulfills~~ fulfill the objectives stated above, it will be appreciated that numerous modifications and other embodiments may be devised by those skilled in the art. Therefore, it will be understood that the appended claims are intended to cover all such embodiments ~~which~~ that come within the spirit and scope of the present invention.

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